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SEISMIC ARRAYS FOR THE DETECTION
OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS

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ABSTRACT

Seismic arrays are multichannel sensor patterns immersed in a multi-dimensional signal-noise field and the analytic problem is hence analogous to that of radar antennas. The subject is thus opened first by a review of antenna theory, considering questions of aperture width, antenna resolution, and of optimum design criteria, and secondly by a review of spectral theory, including special examination of the Ross "time gates". The general optimization problem for multichannel data leads to large systems of normal equations of Toeplitz form (as presented in previous reports) which require recursion solution techniques to be computationally feasible. Such techniques are elaborated here in terms of polynomials orthogonal on the unit circle. The specific seismic array problem is then considered in terms of plane-wave-front signal and noise contributions plus incoherent noise, and details of the "velocity filtering" method are presented. All practical array filtering rests ultimately on empirical measurements of signal and noise properties, especially of spectral behavior. Spectral estimation from finite array measurements is the final question considered, including relations between continuous and discrete aperture functions, and the tabulation of aperture functions with their windows.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACT-----	Page 2
CHAPTER	
1. REVIEW OF ANTENNA THEORY-----	5
2. REVIEW OF SPECTRAL THEORY-----	23
3. MULTICHANNEL SPIKING AND SHAPING FILTERS-----	35
4. SEISMIC ARRAYS-----	48
5. VELOCITY FILTERING-----	57
6. SPECTRAL ANALYSIS-----	76
7. DISCUSSION OF SPECTRAL WINDOWS-----	85
8. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CONTINUOUS AND DISCRETE APERTURE FUNCTIONS-----	93
9. LISTING OF VARIOUS APERTURE FUNCTIONS AND THEIR WINDOWS-----	97
10. REFERENCES-----	102

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electric field across its face is sinusoidal in time with an amplitude and phase depending on position according to the complex-valued function of position $A_0(x)$. The superposition of the contributions along the antenna give the antenna pattern. By examining the figure, we see that the distance traveled by the incremental wave from the position $(x, x+dx)$ varies with the position x .

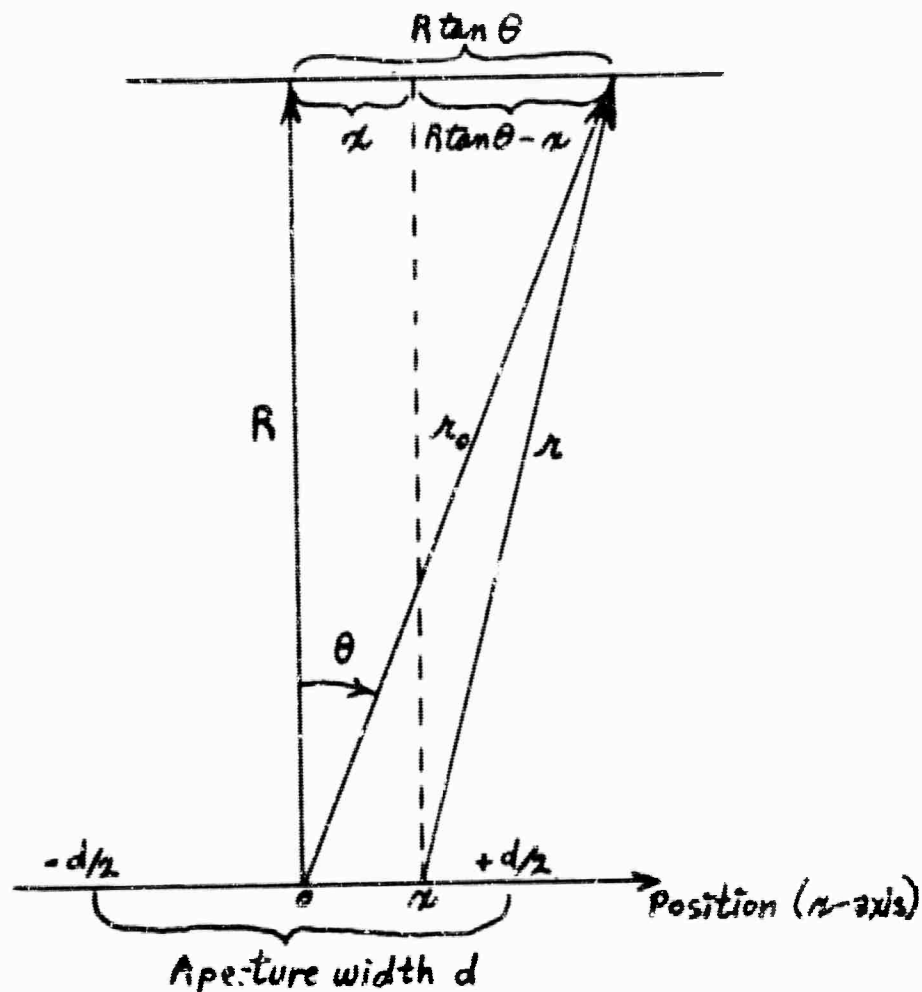


Figure 1. Radar antenna geometry

We have:

$$r_0 = \sqrt{R^2 + (R \tan \theta)^2} = R \sqrt{1 + \tan^2 \theta} \approx R \left[1 + \frac{\tan^2 \theta}{2} \right]$$

$$r = \sqrt{R^2 + (R \tan \theta - x)^2} \approx R \left[1 + \frac{(R \tan \theta - x)^2}{2 R^2} \right].$$

If $A_s(x) = M(x) e^{i\phi(x)}$, then the sine wave received from the position $(x, x+dx)$ is

$$\begin{aligned} & M \cos\left[\omega_0\left(t - \frac{r}{c}\right) + \phi\right] dx \\ &= M \cos\left[\omega_0 t + \phi - \frac{2\pi r}{\lambda}\right] dx \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\frac{2\pi c}{\omega} = \lambda \quad (c = \text{velocity of light}).$$

Let us use a reference phase of $\frac{2\pi r_0}{\lambda}$ when at a distance r_0 .

Then the received signal can be written as

$$M \cos\left[\omega_0 t + \phi + \frac{2\pi}{\lambda}(r_0 - r)\right] dx.$$

We will now make the approximation

$$\begin{aligned} r_0 - r &\approx R\left[1 + \frac{\tan^2 \theta}{2}\right] - R\left[1 + \frac{(R \tan \theta - x)^2}{2R^2}\right] \\ &\approx x \tan \theta - \frac{x^2}{2R} \end{aligned}$$

which is good for small θ and large R . By "far field" we mean that R is so large that $\frac{x^2}{2R}$ can be neglected; the important criterion is for

$$\frac{\left(\frac{d}{2}\right)^2}{2R} \ll \lambda$$

where d is the aperture width. Also we shall let $\tan \theta \approx \theta$, so

$$r_1 - r \approx x \tan \theta \approx x \theta.$$

Hence the received signal may be written

$$M \cos[\omega t + \phi + \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} x \theta] dx.$$

Adding sine waves of the same frequency, the amplitude and phase of the total signal received at an angle θ is given by

$$a(\theta) = \int_{-\frac{d}{2}}^{\frac{d}{2}} M(x) e^{i\phi(x)} e^{i\frac{2\pi}{\lambda} x \theta} dx.$$

Letting

$$\omega = \frac{2\pi x}{\lambda} \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda A_0\left(\frac{\lambda \omega}{2\pi}\right) = A(\omega)$$

we have

$$a(\theta) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\frac{\pi d}{\lambda}}^{\frac{\pi d}{\lambda}} A(\omega) e^{i\omega \theta} d\omega.$$

Thus we see that the antenna pattern $Q(\theta)$ is the inverse Fourier transform of the illumination function $A(\omega)$. Because of the finite aperture width, that is,

$$A(\omega) = 0 \quad \text{for } |\omega| > \frac{\pi d}{\lambda},$$

the antenna pattern is the Fourier transform of a band-limited function. Thus a narrow beam width would require a wide aperture width d of the antenna.

There are various ways to measure the beam width of an antenna pattern, $Q(\theta)$. Suppose that $Q(\theta)$ is real. Then

$$\sigma^2 = \frac{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (\theta - \bar{\theta})^2 Q(\theta) d\theta}{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} Q(\theta) d\theta}$$

(where $\bar{\theta} = \frac{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \theta Q(\theta) d\theta}{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} Q(\theta) d\theta}$) might be small not because $Q(\theta)$ is concentrated around $\bar{\theta}$ on the θ -axis but because the contributions to the numerator for $\alpha > 0$ might be cancelled by the contributions for $\alpha < 0$. Thus we see that it is $|\alpha|$ that is involved in our intuitive notion of the spread of $Q(\theta)$ on the θ -axis. Also $|Q(\theta)|$ allows us to consider complex $Q(\theta)$ as well as real $Q(\theta)$. Now for analytic reasons, it is much easier to work with $|Q(\theta)|^2$ instead of $|Q(\theta)|$; as far as spread on the θ -axis is concerned, $|Q(\theta)|^2$ is as satisfactory as $|Q(\theta)|$, although obviously there are quantitative differences depending upon which we use.

Thus the beam width of an antenna pattern $Q(\theta)$ may be measured by the quantity

$$\alpha^2 = \frac{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (\theta - \bar{\theta})^2 |Q(\theta)|^2 d\theta}{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \theta |Q(\theta)|^2 d\theta}$$

where

$$\bar{\theta} = \frac{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \theta |a(\theta)|^2 d\theta}{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |a(\theta)|^2 d\theta}.$$

It is always worthwhile to consider other measures for spread along the θ -axis. Another measure may be referred to the equivalent rectangle; specifically, the measure ρ is the width of a rectangle having the same area as $|a(\theta)|^2$ and having the same peak value as $|a(\theta)|^2$. If we let $|a(\theta_0)|^2$ denote the peak value of $|a(\theta)|^2$, then

$$\rho = \frac{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |a(\theta)|^2 d\theta}{|a(\theta_0)|^2}$$

This measure is not good for antenna patterns for which $|a(\theta)|^2$ is not reasonably block-shaped.

Let us now derive expressions for α and ρ in terms of the illumination function $A(\omega)$. Because we can choose our origin of coordinates as we like, we may assume that $\bar{\theta}$ and θ_0 are equal to zero. This involves replacing $a(\theta)$ by $a(\theta - \bar{\theta})$ or $a(\theta - \theta_0)$ as the case may be; in turn, the illumination function is modified by a linear phase term $e^{-i\omega\bar{\theta}}$ or $e^{-i\omega\theta_0}$ respectively.

Parseval's theorem states that

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |a(\theta)|^2 d\theta = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |A(\omega)|^2 d\omega,$$

and also we have

$$a(\theta) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{i\omega\theta} A(\omega) d\omega = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} A(\omega) d\omega.$$

Hence the measure of spread, $\mathcal{J}$, is

$$\mathcal{J} = \frac{\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |A(\omega)|^2 d\omega}{\left| \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} A(\omega) d\omega \right|^2} = \frac{2\pi \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |A(\omega)|^2 d\omega}{\left| \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} A(\omega) d\omega \right|^2},$$

the width of the equivalent rectangle. To obtain a formula for $\mathcal{J}$ in terms of $A(\omega)$, we must use two applications of Parseval's theorem, one for $a(\theta)$ and the other for $\theta a(\theta)$. Because

$$A(\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} a(\theta) e^{-i\omega\theta} d\theta$$

we have

$$A'(\omega) = -i \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \theta a(\theta) e^{-i\omega\theta} d\theta.$$

That is

$$i A'(\omega) \leftrightarrow \theta a(\theta)$$

where M is fixed, we want to choose ϕ to maximize the denominator. Because

$$\left| \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} M e^{i\phi} d\omega \right| \leq \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |M e^{i\phi}| d\omega = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} M d\omega$$

we see that we get equality only if ϕ is a constant, which proves our assertion. Let us now look at the beam width α^2 . Because

$$A'(\omega) = M'(\omega) e^{i\phi(\omega)} + M(\omega) i \phi'(\omega) e^{i\phi(\omega)},$$

we have

$$\alpha^2 = \frac{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |M' + i M \phi'|^2 d\omega}{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} M^2 d\omega}$$

because the factor $e^{i\phi}$ has no effect on $|A'|^2$.

Because M' and $M\phi'$ are real, the only way to minimize $|M' + i M \phi'|^2 = (M')^2 + (M\phi')^2$ for fixed M is to make $\phi' = 0$, which means that ϕ would be a constant. Nevertheless, since we only need to make $M\phi' = 0$, the points at which $M(\omega) = 0$ need not be points for which $\phi'(\omega) = 0$. Thus, suppose $M'(\omega)$ exists except possibly at isolated points where $M(\omega) = 0$ and at

the ω -axis to provide a numerical measure of bandwidth. One such notion of bandwidth is the radius of gyration

$$\beta^2 = \frac{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \omega^2 |A(\omega)|^2 d\omega}{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |A(\omega)|^2 d\omega}$$

where we assume that

$$\bar{\omega} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \omega |A(\omega)|^2 d\omega = 0.$$

This last restriction only amounts to a translation of $A(\omega)$ by an amount $\bar{\omega}$, corresponding to multiplying $a(\theta)$ by $e^{i\bar{\omega}\theta}$, which has no effect on α (or β). Another notion of bandwidth is the natural one for antennas with finite aperture width; here it is assumed that $H(\omega) = 0$ outside of an interval (corresponding to the aperture) on the ω -axis. We define k as half the length of the interval; in terms of our previous notation

$$A(\omega) = 0 \quad \text{for } |\omega| > k = \frac{\pi d}{\lambda}$$

where d = aperture width and $\lambda = \frac{2\pi c}{\omega}$ (where c = velocity of light).

We now wish to show that broad illumination bandwidth gives a narrow beam width (that is, a good antenna resolution).

From the definitions of α^2 and β^2 , we have

$$\alpha^2 \beta^2 = \frac{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |A'|^2 d\omega}{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |A|^2 d\omega} \frac{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \omega^2 |A|^2 d\omega}{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |A|^2 d\omega}.$$

By use of the Schwarz inequality, it follows that

$$\left| \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \omega A A' d\omega \right|^2 \leq \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \omega^2 |A|^2 d\omega \cdot \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |A'|^2 d\omega$$

so

$$\frac{\left| \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \omega A A' d\omega \right|^2}{\left(\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |A|^2 d\omega \right)^2} \leq \alpha^2 \beta^2$$

We assume that the phase $\phi(\omega) = 0$ in

$$A(\omega) = M(\omega) e^{i\phi(\omega)}$$

so that

$$A(\omega) = M(\omega)$$

is real. Hence we see that

$$A A' = \frac{1}{2} \frac{dA^2}{d\omega}$$

thereby giving

$$\left| \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \omega A A' d\omega \right|^2 = \frac{1}{4} \left| \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \omega \left(\frac{dA^2}{d\omega} \right) d\omega \right|^2$$

for the numerator of the above expression. If we integrate by parts, we therefore obtain

$$\frac{1}{4} \left| \omega A^2 \right|_{-\infty}^{\infty} - \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} H^2 d\omega \Big|^2$$

for the numerator, and since $\omega A^2 \rightarrow 0$ as $|\omega| \rightarrow \infty$, this expression reduces to

$$\frac{1}{4} \left| - \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} A^2 d\omega \right|^2.$$

Hence

$$\frac{1}{4} \leq \alpha^2 \beta^2$$

or

$$\alpha \beta \geq \frac{1}{2},$$

Which is the fundamental expression relating the measure α of the beam width (or antenna resolution) and the measure β^2 of the illumination bandwidth (or aperture width). Thus if we wish to narrow the beam width of the antenna pattern it is necessary to broaden the band width of the antenna illumination.

The lower bound of $\frac{1}{2}$ for $\alpha \beta$ is actually obtained for the Gaussian-shaped illumination function

$$A(\omega) = C e^{-\frac{\omega^2}{4\beta^2}}$$

(where C = a positive constant)

which yields the antenna pattern (which is also Gaussian-shaped)

$$Q(\theta) = C e^{-\frac{\theta^2}{4\beta^2}} \quad (\text{where } C = \text{a positive constant}).$$

Nevertheless, there is no upper bound for $\alpha\beta$.

A similar result to $\alpha\beta \geq \frac{1}{2}$ can be obtained by using the width of the equivalent rectangular β to measure beam width of the antenna pattern $Q(\theta)$ and using finite aperture width to measure the bandwidth k of the illumination $A(\omega)$. We suppose that

$$A(\omega) = 0 \quad \text{for } |\omega| > k.$$

Hence the width of the equivalent rectangle is

$$\beta = \frac{2\pi \int_{-k}^k |A|^2 d\omega}{\left| \int_{-k}^k A d\omega \right|^2}$$

The integrand of the denominator is A , which we may write as $1 \cdot A$ in order to apply the Schwarz inequality. Thus we have

$$\left| \int_{-k}^k (A \cdot 1) d\omega \right|^2 \leq \int_{-k}^k |A|^2 d\omega \cdot \int_{-k}^k d\omega = 2k \int_{-k}^k |A|^2 d\omega$$

so

$$\rho \geq \frac{2\pi \int_{-k}^k |A|^2 d\omega}{2k \int_{-k}^k |A|^2 d\omega} = \frac{2\pi}{2k} = \frac{\pi}{k}.$$

Therefore the following inequality is satisfied:

$$k\rho \geq \pi.$$

The equality is satisfied if and only if the illumination is a constant for $|\omega| < k$, in which case the antenna pattern is

$$a(\theta) = C \frac{\sin k\theta}{\theta} \quad (\text{where } C = \text{a constant})$$

In view that

$$k\rho = \pi$$

for a constant illumination function over the finite aperture, that is, for

$$H(\omega) = \begin{cases} \text{constant} & \text{for } |\omega| \leq k \\ 0 & \text{for } |\omega| \geq k \end{cases}$$

it follows that this illumination is optimum in the sense of giving the smallest possible equivalent-rectangle width for a given aperture size. Nevertheless, if we measure the beam width (i.e., antenna resolution) in terms of radius of gyration instead of in terms of equivalent rectangle, we obtain a different result for the optimum illumination function for a finite aperture.

The finite aperture restriction is that the illumination function satisfies the condition

$$A(\omega) = 0 \quad \text{for } |\omega| > k.$$

The result that we seek is the shape of

$$A(\omega) \quad \text{for } |\omega| \leq k$$

such that the product

$$\alpha \star$$

is a minimum. To minimize α , A will have a constant phase that we can take to be zero, so

$$A(\omega) = M(\omega)$$

is real. We recall that

$$\alpha^2 = \frac{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |A'|^2 d\omega}{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |A|^2 d\omega} = \frac{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (A')^2 d\omega}{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} A^2 d\omega}$$

Thus we wish to minimize

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (A')^2 d\omega = \int_{-k}^k (A')^2 d\omega$$

with the constraint

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} A^2 d\omega = \int_{-k}^k A^2 d\omega = \text{constant}.$$

Using the calculus of variations, the solution comes out to be

$$A(\omega) = C \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{2} \frac{\omega}{k}\right) \quad (\text{where } C = \text{a constant})$$

and the minimum of α^2 is

$$\alpha^2 = \frac{\pi^2}{4k^2} \frac{\int_{-\frac{\pi}{2}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \sin^2 \phi d\phi}{\int_{-\frac{\pi}{2}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \cos^2 \phi d\phi} = \frac{\pi^2}{4k^2}$$

Thus beam-width parameter α^2 and aperture-width parameter

$k = \frac{\pi d}{\lambda}$ satisfy the inequality

$$\alpha k \geq \frac{\pi}{2}$$

with equality if and only if a cosine illumination function is used. Such an illumination function is in common use in antennas.

In summary, we may observe from the above results that

- (1) to have a narrow beam antenna pattern it is necessary but not sufficient to have a broad illumination,
- (2) phase $\phi(\omega)$ of the illumination function, other than a constant or a linear phase (which shifts the antenna pattern without changing its shape) increases the beam width of the antenna pattern, and there is no upper bound for this increase.

definition of the Fourier transform is as follows: Given a time-function $f(t)$, then its Fourier transform $F(\omega)$ is the frequency-function given by

$$F(\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(t) e^{-i\omega t} dt$$

where

t = time (say, in seconds)

ω = radian frequency (say, in radians per second).

It is necessary to state various further remarks about $f(t)$ and $F(\omega)$, but we will assume that the reader is already familiar with them. Making use of the Euler identity

$$e^{-i\omega t} = \cos \omega t - i \sin \omega t$$

we see that the Fourier transform $F(\omega)$ is

$$\begin{aligned} F(\omega) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(t) \cos \omega t dt - i \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(t) \sin \omega t dt \\ &= (\text{cosine transform}) - i (\text{sine transform}). \end{aligned}$$

Much of our discussion will be concerned with the cosine transform for a parallel discussion would apply to the sine transform.

so

$$\frac{d_n^2}{d_{n+1}^2} = 1 - |a_n|^2$$

Thus

$$\frac{1}{d_n^2} = \frac{\Delta_n}{\Delta_{n+1}} = \frac{1}{d_0^2} \prod_{k=0}^{n-1} (1 - |a_k|^2) \quad \text{where } \frac{1}{d_0^2} = r_0$$

and

$$\frac{1}{d_n^2} = \frac{1}{d_0^2} - \frac{|a_0|^2}{d_0^2} - \frac{|a_1|^2}{d_1^2} - \dots - \frac{|a_{n-1}|^2}{d_{n-1}^2}$$

This last step follows by induction since

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{d_{n+1}^2} &= \left(\frac{1}{d_0^2} - \frac{|a_0|^2}{d_0^2} - \frac{|a_1|^2}{d_1^2} - \dots - \frac{|a_{n-1}|^2}{d_{n-1}^2} \right) (1 - |a_n|^2) \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{d_0^2} - \frac{|a_0|^2}{d_0^2} - \frac{|a_1|^2}{d_1^2} - \dots - \frac{|a_{n-1}|^2}{d_{n-1}^2} \right) - \frac{|a_n|^2}{d_n^2}. \end{aligned}$$

Likewise:

$$a_n(z) = a_0(z) + k_{a0} z b_0\left(\frac{1}{z}\right) + k_{a1} z^2 b_1\left(\frac{1}{z}\right) + \dots + k_{a,n-1} z^n b_{n-1}\left(\frac{1}{z}\right)$$

$$b_n(z) = b_0\left(\frac{1}{z}\right) + k_{b0}\left(\frac{1}{z}\right) a_0(z) + k_{b1}\left(\frac{1}{z}\right)^2 a_1(z) + \dots + k_{b,n-1}\left(\frac{1}{z}\right)^n a_{n-1}(z)$$

where $b_0(z) = b_0$, $a_0(z) = a_0$, $b_0\left(\frac{1}{z}\right) = b_0$

are constant matrices.

